

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPTS

REF: A. USNATO 0650; B. PO/74/45 DTD 26 APRIL 74

C. USNATO 2315; D. USNATO 0860; E. SECDEF P 091429Z APR 74

BEGIN SUMMARY. MESSAGE TRANSMITS VIEWS OF SEC GEN LUNS ON REQUIREMENT FOR PROGRESS TOWARD STANDARDIZATION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN NATO. MESSAGE STATES THAT ACHIEVEMENT OF COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPTS AT LEAST IN SPECIFIC FIELDS IS A NECESSARY BUILDING BLOCK FOR STANDARDIZATION. MISSION NOTES DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED AND REQUESTS GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. MISSION FORWARDED MILITARY COMMITTEE VIEWS ON COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPTS IN USNATO 0650 (REF A). SEC GEN LUNS COMMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT (REF B) ARE QUOTED IN ENTIRETY FOR INFORMATION. SUBJECT WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCUSSED 2 MAY IN DPC (REF C).

QUOTE

COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPTS

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL RECALL THAT THE REQUIREMENT FOR A COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPT FOR NATO FORCES IS OF LONG STANDING AND HAS TWICE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF MINITERIAL DISCUSSION (C-M(62)114 AND DPC/D(72)12). HOWEVER, I HAVE NOW CIRCULATED TO DELEGATES A REPORT FROM THE MILITARY COMMITTEE (MCM-9-74) WHICH CONCLUDES THAT THERE ARE NO PRACTICAL PROSPECTS OF ACHIEVING COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPTS FOR COMBAT FORCES ON A NATO-WIDE BASIS AT PRESENT. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, DRAW ATTENTION TO EFFORTS BEING MADE ON A MORE LIMITED SCALE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EUROGROUP AND ALSO UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS (CNAD).

2. THE ORIGINAL INTENTION IN INVITING THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO ESTABLISH NATO COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPTS WAS TO PROVIDE AN AGREED BASIS FOR LONG-TERM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COMMON DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS SYSDMS. SINCE, FOR THE PRESENT, THERE SEEMS NO POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING AGREEMENT ON SUCH CONCEPTS, THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE SHOULD NOW CONSIDER THE APPROACH WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN TO PROVIDE THE CNAD, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR STANDARDIZATION AND CO-ORDINATION OF EQUIPMENT PRODUCTION, WITH THE SPECIFIC TACTICAL CONCEPTS OR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS IT NEEDS. THIS APPROACH COULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY REGIONS OR, IF THIS IS NOT PRACTICABLE, ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

3. MY SUGGESTION WOULD BE FOR WORK TO CONTINUE BETWEEN COUNTRIES ON A BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL BASIS - SUCH AS ALREADY TAKES PLACE UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE CNAD AND THE EUROGROUP ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPTS OR SUBCONCEPTS IN SPECIFIC FIELDS. THIS INDEED IS ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE. IT WOULD THEN BE FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CNAD OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE TO SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR SUCH CONCEPTS OR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS
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AS THE BASIS FOR WEAPON DEVELOPMENT WITHIN NATO. THIS WOULD AUGMENT THE GUIDANCE ALREADY PROVIDED BY THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN RELATION TO SPECIFIC AREAS OF CONCERN IN THE FIELD OF ARMAMENTS PRODUCTION (MCM-35-73).

4. SUCH PROCEDURES WOULD PERMIT THE APPROPRIATE NATO CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES TO SEEK THE GUIDANCE OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE ON SPECIFIC CASES WHERE THE LACK OF OPERATIONAL OR TACTICAL CONCEPTS IS HOLDING BACK PROGRESS IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ARMAMENTS PRODUCTION. I WOULD ADD THAT WHERE CONFLICT OF NATIONAL INTERESTS INHIBITS AGREED GUIDANCE BEING PROVIDED BY THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES, THEN THE ISSUES CONCERNED SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE

DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE.

5. I BELIEVE IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT SOME PROGRESS IS MADE TO OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH AT PRESENT INHIBIT STANDARDIZATION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN NATO. MY PO/74/16 ON ALLIANCE DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH WE DISCUSSED ON 10TH APRIL, ADDRESSES ONE ASPECT OF THESE DIFFICULTIES. THE PROBLEM OF ACHIEVING COMMON CONCEPTS IS ANOTHER. I THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT WE SHOULD DISCUSS THE MILITARY COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM AND MY PROPOSALS SET OUT ABOVE AT AN EARLY MEETING OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE. (SIGNED)
JOSEPH M.A.H. LUNS

UNQUOTE

2. MISSION NOTES THAT MILITARY COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT OF NATO PROSPECTS FOR COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPTS WAS NOT HOPEFUL. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, HOWEVER, THE INCREASING SIMILARITY OF US AND FRG VIEWS ON ANTI-ARMOR DEFENSE (REF D AND E) PROVIDES AN EXAMPLE OF COMMONALITY OF TACTICAL DOCTRINE IN A SPECIFIC AREA. PERHAPS, BY BUILDING ON SPECIFIC NEAR-TERM EXAMPLES SUCH AS THESE, NATO CAN EVENTUALLY ACHIEVE COMMONALITY OF FUTURE CONCEPTS IN ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC AREAS.
WASHINGTON VIEWS AND GUIDANCE REQUESTED.MCAULIFFE

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